colleagues in the industrialized countries also. There is going to be another Ministerial Meeting in Montreal where he will participate before the Ministerial Meeting in Cancum. India has always, I mean, India has formulated its views, India is coordinating its views with other developing countries and wherever it is necessary for us to emphasise our point of view, we are doing that. I would like to inform the House that we have a large measure of support as a result of the efforts of the Prime Minister, as a result of the efforts of the rest of the members of the Government with regard to the issues of concern of India and to the developing countries.

Movement of Indian workers to Iraq

*64. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED†:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether removal of restrictions on movement of Indian workers to Iraq is expected to result in a large scale migration of skilled workers as Indian workers are preferred in the Middle East; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) Initially there were expectations that removal of restrictions on recruitment of Indian personnel for employment in Iraq would result in fairly large employment opportunities for Indians particularly for the reconstruction works. However, there was resistance from local unemployed Iraqis to induction of outsiders. Now, most of the contractors in Iraq are employing Iraqis.

डा॰ अबरार अहमद: सभापति महोदय, अमरीका ने इराक के अंदर जो दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण विध्वंस किया, उसके पुनर्निर्माण में निश्चित रूप से भारतीय श्रमिकों का महत्वपूर्ण योगदान रहेगा। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह कहना चाहता हूं कि भारतीय श्रमिक जब वहां पर पुनर्निर्माण के लिए जायेंगे तो उसमें दोनों देशों की नीतियां काम करेंगी। जो भारतीय श्रमिक वहां कार्य के लिए बुलाए जायेंगे या वे जायेंगे तो उसमें हमारे देश की क्या नीति है और क्या वे जाने वाले श्रमिक प्राइवेट कंपनियों के माध्यम से जैसे पहले पैसा दे कर जाते रहे हैं वैसे ही जायेंगे या उसमें कोई सरकारी तौर-तरीका भी होगा? क्या माननीय मंत्री जी यह भी सुनिश्चित करेंगे कि वहां उनके साथ अच्छा व्यवहार हो और इराक की इसमें क्या नीति है? क्या इसके अंदर इराक में श्रमिकों के

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Abrar Ahmed.

जाने के बारे में संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ के भी कोई दिशा-निर्देश हैं या फिर पूर्ण रूप से अमरीका की दादागिरी है?

श्री साहिब सिंह वर्मा: माननीय सभापति जी, विदेशों में जितने भी लोग या हमारे श्रमिक जाते हैं, वे दो तरीके से जाते हैं। एक तो उनकी कंपनियां हमारे पास आती हैं और वे उनको रेक्रूट करके ले जाती हैं। दूसरा हमारे पास एजेंट्स हैं जो लेबर मिनिस्ट्री में रजिस्टर्ड होते हैं और उनके माध्यम से वे जाते हैं। उनकी फीस वगैरह सब तय है कि किस तरह से जायेंगे। जब तक हमारी क्लीयरेंस एक्सटर्नल अफेयर्स मिनिस्ट्री की, हमारी एंबैसी की उस देश से, उस फर्म के बारे में नहीं आती, तब तक हम उसको रेक्रूट करके वहां नहीं भेजते। हम पूरी तसल्ली के साथ उनको वहां पर भेजते हैं। प्रारंभ में बहुत उम्मीद थी कि बहुत लोग जायेंगे, लेकिन अभी वहां पर अधिकतर इराकी लोग ही काम कर रहे हैं, इसलिए अधिक जाने की सम्भावना अभी भी दिखाई नहीं देती।

डा० अबरार अहमद: माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि जब अमरीका ने इराक में विध्वंस चालू किया उस समय हमारे बहुत सारे भारतीय श्रमिक इराक से और खाड़ी देशों से भारत लौटे थे, तो उस विध्वंस के अंदर क्या कुछ श्रमिक भी हताहत हुए हैं, क्या उनकी कुछ बकाया राशि भी वहां पर है और जो हताहत हुए हैं, या जिनको नुकसान पहुंचा है, क्या उनके परिजनों को किसी ने कुछ दिया भी है?

श्री सभापति: इस क्वश्चन में तो यह आता नहीं है।

श्री साहिब सिंह वर्मा: माननीय सभापति जी, इस प्रश्न में तो यह आता नहीं है।

SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Sir, what I want to know from the hon. Minister is this. Sir, in the reply it has been stated that there was resistance from the local unemployed Iraqis to induction of outsiders. I would like to know whether the same situation has been created in USA, Canada, Malaysia and also UK where there is strong resistance from the local people as a result of which the Indian workers and skilled workers who were working there are not getting visas from the respective countries. Also the future of the Indian workers there is not good. I would like to know whether the Government has any information in this regard.

SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA: So far as our workers are concerned, they do not go to Canada, USA and other countries, but they go to the Middle East and some other countries...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: No, no. Who said it? Our skilled workers are in the USA, Canada, Malaysia, U.K., etc. There is a strike. You must have that information.

SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Our Ministry does not cover those workers.

Settlement of outstanding issues with China

*65. SHRI LALIT SURI:†
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any settlement between India and China on the outstanding issues between the two countries could be arrived at during the Prime Minister's recent visit to China;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the issues on which no agreeable solution could be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) During Prime Minister's visit to China in June 2003, a Declaration on Principles for Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation between India and China was signed which sets out the shared perspectives on the future development of bilateral relationship. Both sides are agreed to qualitatively enhancing the bilateral relationship at all levels and in all areas while addressing differences, including on the boundary question, through peaceful means in a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable manner.

SHRI LALIT SURI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has just said that certain understandings and declarations have been signed. In the light of the importance of resolving various issues, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any Joint Working Group of the two countries has been formed to oversee and ensure the implementation of the decisions arrived at. If 'so', at what level and at what interval the Joint Working Group is scheduled to meet?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, we have various Joint Working Groups already funtioning between China and India. We have not set

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Lalit Suri.